



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-821-826]

Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line, and Pressure Pipe from the Russian Federation: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that seamless carbon and alloy steel standard, line, and pressure pipe (seamless pipe) from the Russian Federation (Russia) is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation is July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caitlin Monks, AD/CVD Operations, Office VIII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2670.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 733(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this investigation on August 4, 2020.<sup>1</sup> On November 19, 2020, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation, and the revised deadline is now February 3, 2021.<sup>2</sup> For a

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<sup>1</sup> See *Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line, and Pressure Pipe from the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair Value Investigations*, 85 FR 47176 (August 4, 2020) (*Initiation Notice*).

<sup>2</sup> See *Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line, and Pressure Pipe from the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 85 FR 73687 (November 19, 2020).

complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>3</sup> A list of topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed and the electronic versions of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

### Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are seamless pipe from Russia. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

### Scope Comments

In accordance with the preamble to Commerce's regulations, the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).<sup>4</sup> Certain interested parties commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*.<sup>5</sup> For a summary of the product coverage comments and rebuttal responses submitted to the record for this investigation, and accompanying discussion and analysis of all comments timely received, *see* the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.<sup>6</sup> Commerce is preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. *See* the revised scope in Appendix I to this notice.

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<sup>3</sup> *See* Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Affirmative Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line, and Pressure Pipe from Russia," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice.

<sup>4</sup> *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

<sup>5</sup> *See Initiation Notice*.

<sup>6</sup> *See* Memorandum, "Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigations of Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line, and Pressure Pipe from the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine: Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum," dated January 13, 2021 (Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

The deadline to submit scope case briefs was established in the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.<sup>7</sup> There will be no further opportunity for comments on scope-related issues.

### Methodology

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 731 of the Act. Commerce has calculated export prices in accordance with section 772(a) of the Act. Normal value is calculated in accordance with section 773 of the Act. For a full description of the methodology underlying the preliminary determination, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

### All-Others Rate

Section 733(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act provides that in the preliminary determination, Commerce shall determine an estimated all-others rate for all exporters and producers not individually examined. Pursuant to section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act, this rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins established for exporters and producers individually investigated, excluding any zero and *de minimis* margins, and any margins determined entirely under section 776 of the Act.

Commerce calculated an individual estimated weighted-average dumping margin for PAO TMK and Volzhsky Pipe Plant (collectively, TMK), the only individually examined exporter/producer in this investigation. Because the only individually calculated dumping margin is not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts otherwise available, the estimated weighted-average dumping margin calculated for TMK is the dumping margin assigned to all other producers and exporters, pursuant to section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act.

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<sup>7</sup> Case briefs, other written comments, and rebuttal briefs submitted in response to this preliminary LTFV determination should not include scope-related issues. *See* Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum; and “Public Comment” section of this notice.

### Preliminary Determination

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margins exist:

<b>Exporter/Producer</b>	<b>Estimated Weighted-Average Dumping Margin (percent)</b>
PAO TMK / Volzhsky Pipe Plant Joint Stock Company <sup>8</sup>	209.72
All Others	209.72

### Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 733(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise, as described in Appendix I, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the *Federal Register*.

Further, pursuant to section 733(d)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(d), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margin or the estimated all-others rate, as follows: (1) the cash deposit rate for the respondents listed in the table above will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margins determined in this preliminary determination; (2) if the exporter is not a respondent identified in the table above, but the producer is, then the cash deposit rate will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margin established for that producer of the subject merchandise; and (3) the cash deposit rate for all other producers and exporters will be equal to the all-others estimated weighted-average dumping margin. These suspension of liquidation instructions will remain in effect until further notice.

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<sup>8</sup> Commerce has preliminarily determined that the following affiliated companies constitute a single entity: PAO TMK, Volzhsky Pipe Plant Joint Stock Company, Taganrog Metallurgical Plant Joint Stock Company, Sinarsky Pipe Plant Joint Stock Company, and Seversky Pipe Plant Joint Stock Company. See Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

## Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties in this preliminary determination within five days of any public announcement or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

## Verification

As provided in section 782(i)(1) of the Act, Commerce intends to verify the information relied upon in making its final determination. Normally, Commerce verifies information using standard procedures, including an on-site examination of original accounting, financial, and sales documentation. However, due to current travel restrictions in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Commerce is unable to conduct on-site verification in this investigation.

Accordingly, we intend to verify the information relied upon in making the final determination through alternative means in lieu of an on-site verification.

## Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments on non-scope issues may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. Interested parties will be notified of a timeline for the submission of such case briefs and written comments at a later date. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be submitted no later than seven days after the deadline for case briefs. Commerce has temporarily modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information until further notice.<sup>9</sup> Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this investigation are encouraged to submit with each argument: (1) a statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited

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<sup>9</sup> See *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19; Extension of Effective Period*, 85 FR 41363 (July 10, 2020).

to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of hearing participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm the date and time of the hearing two days before the scheduled hearing date.

#### Postponement of Final Determination and Extension of Provisional Measures

Section 735(a)(2) of the Act provides that a final determination may be postponed until not later than 135 days after the date of the publication of the preliminary determination if, in the event of an affirmative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by exporters who account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise, or in the event of a negative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by the petitioner. Section 351.210(e)(2) of Commerce's regulations requires that a request by the exporters for postponement of the final determination be accompanied by a request for extension of provisional measures from a four-month period to a period not more than six months in duration.

On January 5, 2021, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.210(e), TMK requested that Commerce postpone the final determination and that provisional measures be extended to a period not to exceed six months.<sup>10</sup> In accordance with section 735(a)(2)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(2)(ii), because: (1) the preliminary determination is affirmative; (2) the requesting exporters account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise; and (3) no compelling reasons for denial exist, Commerce is postponing the final determination and extending the provisional measures from a four-month period to a period not greater than six

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<sup>10</sup> See TMK's Letter, "Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line, and Pressure Pipe ("SSLP Pipe") from Russia: Request to Postpone the Final Determination," dated January 5, 2021.

months. Accordingly, Commerce will make its final determination no later than 135 days after the date of publication of this preliminary determination, pursuant to section 735(a)(2) of the Act.

#### International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of its preliminary determination. If the final determination is affirmative, then the ITC will determine before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination whether imports of seamless pipe from Russia are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry.

#### Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 733(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: February 3, 2021.

James Maeder,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

## Appendix I

### Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by the scope of this investigation is seamless carbon and alloy steel (other than stainless steel) pipes and redraw hollows, less than or equal to 16 inches (406.4 mm) in nominal outside diameter, regardless of wall-thickness, manufacturing process (*e.g.*, hot finished or cold-drawn), end finish (*e.g.*, plain end, beveled end, upset end, threaded, or threaded and coupled), or surface finish (*e.g.*, bare, lacquered or coated). Redraw hollows are any unfinished carbon or alloy steel (other than stainless steel) pipe or “hollow profiles” suitable for cold finishing operations, such as cold drawing, to meet the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or American Petroleum Institute (API) specifications referenced below, or comparable specifications. Specifically included within the scope are seamless carbon and alloy steel (other than stainless steel) standard, line, and pressure pipes produced to the ASTM A-53, ASTM A-106, ASTM A-333, ASTM A-334, ASTM A-589, ASTM A-795, ASTM A-1024, and the API 51 specifications, or comparable specifications, and meeting the physical parameters described above, regardless of application, with the exception of the exclusions discussed below.

Specifically excluded from the scope of the investigation are: (1) All pipes meeting aerospace, hydraulic, and bearing tubing specifications, including pipe produced to the ASTM A-822 standard; (2) all pipes meeting the chemical requirements of ASTM A-335, whether finished or unfinished; and (3) unattached couplings. Also excluded from the scope of the investigation are (1) all mechanical, boiler, condenser and heat exchange tubing, except when such products conform to the dimensional requirements, *i.e.*, outside diameter and wall thickness, of ASTM A-53, ASTM A-106 or API 51 specifications. Also excluded from the scope of the investigation are: (1) oil country tubular goods consisting of drill pipe, casing, tubing and coupling stock; (2) all pipes meeting the chemical requirements of ASTM A-335 regardless of their conformity to the dimensional requirements of ASTM A-53, ASTM A-106 or API 5L; and (3) the exclusion for ASTM A-335 applies to pipes meeting the comparable specifications GOST 550-75.

Subject seamless standard, line, and pressure pipe are normally entered under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 7304.19.1020, 7304.19.1030, 7304.19.1045, 7304.19.1060, 7304.19.5020, 7304.19.5050, 7304.31.6050, 7304.39.0016, 7304.39.0020, 7304.39.0024, 7304.39.0028, 7304.39.0032, 7304.39.0036, 7304.39.0040, 7304.39.0044, 7304.39.0048, 7304.39.0052, 7304.39.0056, 7304.39.0062, 7304.39.0068, 7304.39.0072, 7304.51.5005, 7304.51.5060, 7304.59.6000, 7304.59.8010, 7304.59.8015, 7304.59.8020, 7304.59.8025, 7304.59.8030, 7304.59.8035, 7304.59.8040, 7304.59.8045, 7304.59.8050, 7304.59.8055, 7304.59.8060, 7304.59.8065, and 7304.59.8070. The HTSUS subheadings and specifications are provided for convenience and customs purposes; the written description of the scope is dispositive.

## **Appendix II**

### **List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum**

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Scope of Investigation
- V. Affiliation
- VI. Application of Facts Available and Use of Adverse Inferences
- VII. Discussion of the Methodology
- VIII. Currency Conversion
- IX. Recommendation

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